



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

APPLICANT: DIRK ALBERTUS BODEGOM      DATE: April 28, 2005  
SERIAL NO.: 10/725,960      GROUP ART UNIT: 3671  
FILED: 12/02/2003      EXAMINER: PEZZUTO, Robert Eric  
FOR: "Method and Apparatus for Consolidating Earth Strata"  
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: C03158US (98538.2C)

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Enclosed is a form PTO-1449. Copies of the references are enclosed.

Since the Patent Examiner of the present application also examined the parent patent application, it is the understanding of the undersigned that the Examiner has already considered all of these references. However, to make sure that they are of record in this patent application as well, this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed.

European patent application 0870874 discloses a process for putting a drain pipe into the ground at a large depth. A plough forms a ditch and a drain pipe is wound off a reel and placed at the bottom of the ditch. A pump is connected to the end of the drain pipe and to the lower end of a vertical pipe. The ditch is filled with sand up to a level at a small distance from the surface. The sand is covered by a layer of clay or bentonite.

International patent application WO 98/02616 discloses a method for consolidating watery grounds, in which a pump is placed below ground water level.

Swiss patent 486607 shows a plough for making a ditch into the ground. A drain pipe passes through the plough and is placed near the bottom of the ditch. Sand or other granular material in a hopper is pneumatically or hydraulically fed into the ditch to form a filter body around the drainage pipe.

French patent application 2448842 discloses a plough for making ditches, the plough consisting of two plough members arranged one behind the other. The rear plough member is adjustable in height.

British patents 1384678 and 1392800 show ploughs for cutting drainage trenches.

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US patent 4142817 discloses a plough for making a trench and laying a drainage tile in the trench. The drainage tile is covered by a flexible, water-permeable covering such as a strip or cloth.

SU patent 446598 shows an assembly for making a trench. Discs mounted on a frame, cut the contour of a trench. Plough members remove arable soil, break it down and cover a drain pipe with it.

SU patent 630360 discloses a trench-making apparatus, which is provided with a V-shaped blade at its rear for cutting into the trench walls for making a soil bridge.

Japanese patent application 11131465 discloses a drainage system comprising a series of vertical drains, the upper ends of which contact a horizontally arranged water passing material connected to a pump. The horizontally extending water passing material is surrounded by a sand layer which is covered by an airtight sheet. The recessed part formed is filled with earth and sand and additional vertical drains are driven through that earth and sand and the sheet into the sand layer.

Japanese patent application 03013617 discloses a drain system in a submarine bed, comprising a net laid on the surface, a series of vertical drains and horizontal drains arranged on the net, the upper ends of the vertical drains being located between the net and the horizontal drains.

Japanese patent application 08269937 discloses a submarine drain system, in which the bed is covered by drain sheets and a sand mat, after which vertical drains are inserted in the bed, through the sand mat and the sheets.

International patent application WO 81/03354 discloses a cutting mechanism having a rotatable knife for cutting a vertical drain located in an insertion tube.

Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is hereby respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, he is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Applicant respectfully petitions the Commissioner for any extension of time necessary to render this paper timely.

Appl. No. 09/968,599  
Date: April 28, 2005  
Submission of Information Disclosure Statement

Please charge any fees due or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0694.

Respectfully submitted,

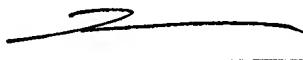


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this April 28, 2005.



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Seth M. Nehrbass

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| FACSIMILE OF<br>FORM PTO-1449<br>(REV. 6-89)  |                      | U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE<br>Patent and Trademark Office |                           | ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER<br>C03158US (98538.2C) |          | SERIAL NUMBER<br>10/725,960          |    |
|---|----------------------|--|---------------------------|---|----------|--------------------------------------|----|
| <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE<br/>CITATION</b><br><i>(Use Several Sheets if Necessary)</i>        |                      |  |                           | <b>APPLICANT</b><br><b>BODEGOM, Dirk</b>        |          |                                      |    |
|   |                      |  |                           | <b>FILING DATE</b><br><b>12/02/2003</b>         |          | <b>GROUP ART UNIT</b><br><b>3671</b> |    |
| <b>U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>   |                      |  |                           |   |          |                                      |    |
| EXAMINER INITIAL  | DOCUMENT NUMBER      | DATE   | NAME                      | CLASS   | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE           |    |
|   |                      |  |                           |   |          |                                      |    |
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| <b>FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>   |                      |  |                           |   |          |                                      |    |
|   | DOCUMENT NUMBER      | DATE   | COUNTRY /<br>Organization | CLASS   | SUBCLASS | TRANS/ABSTRACT                       |    |
|   |                      |  |                           |   |          | YES                                  | NO |
|   | 486607               | 04/1970  | Switzerland               |   |          |                                      |    |
|   | 446598               | 10/1978  | SU                        |   |          | ✓                                    |    |
|   | 1 384 678            | 02/1975  | UK                        |   |          |                                      |    |
|   | 1 392 800            | 04/1975  | UK                        |   |          |                                      |    |
|   | 630360               | 10/1978  | SU                        |   |          | ✓                                    |    |
|   | 2 448 842            | 9/1980   | France                    |   |          |                                      |    |
|   | WO 81/03354          | 11/1981  | WIPO                      |   |          |                                      |    |
|   | 03013617             | 01/1991  | Japan                     |   |          | ✓                                    |    |
|   | 08269937             | 10/1996  | Japan                     |   |          | ✓                                    |    |
|   | WO98/02616           | 01/1998  | WIPO                      |   |          |                                      |    |
|   | EP0870874A1          | 10/1998  | EPO                       |   |          |                                      |    |
|   | 11131465             | 05/1999  | Japan                     |   |          | ✓                                    |    |
|   | 2000104242           | 4/2000   | Japan                     |   |          | ✓                                    |    |
|   | WO 00/50696          | 08/2000  | WIPO                      |   |          |                                      |    |
| <b>OTHER DOCUMENTS AND INFORMATION (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)</b> |                      |  |                           |   |          |                                      |    |
|   |                      |  |                           |   |          |                                      |    |
|   |                      |  |                           |   |          |                                      |    |
|   |                      |  |                           |   |          |                                      |    |
| EXAMINER  | PEZZUTO, Robert Eric |  |                           | DATE CONSIDERED                                 |          |                                      |    |

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP § 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to the patent owner.